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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

FACT SHEET

FRANK FAMILY ESTATE DONATES \$1.25 MILLION TO BENEFIT TWO BALBOA PARK GARDENS

Two endowments established through The San Diego Foundation

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced a major gift from the estate of Thomas and Lilyan Frank that will fund the continued upkeep of two of Balboa Park's famed gardens, the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden and the Japanese Friendship Garden.

The \$1.25 million donation was split equally into two endowment funds, established through The San Diego Foundation: the Lilyan B. Frank Memorial Rose Garden Endowment Fund and the Thomas C. and Lilyan B. Frank Japanese Friendship Garden Society Fund.

"On behalf of all the San Diegans who enjoy the beauty of Balboa Park, I am extremely grateful for the generosity of the Franks," said Mayor Sanders. "These gardens brought the Franks great enjoyment, and their gift was meant to ensure that the public would always be able to experience that same enjoyment."

Recommendations for expenditure of funds from the endowments – which together have already grown by \$150,000 – will be made by The San Diego Foundation's Balboa Park Trust Committee, which manages endowments to benefit the park. The funds will help cover the considerable maintenance and improvement costs for the gardens in perpetuity.

The 3-acre Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden is one of the most frequently visited gardens and a popular location for wedding ceremonies. The garden displays approximately 2,500 roses of nearly 200 varieties.

The 2-acre Japanese Friendship Garden, which originated as a teahouse during the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, features winding paths with a Zen garden for meditation, exhibit house, koi pond, bonsai exhibit, ceremonial gate, and a wisteria arbor.